

Section A

Demography and Health Care System

Chapter I

Introduction

Section 41-7-191, Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, as amended, requires Certificate of Need (CON) approval for the establishment, relocation, or expansion of health care facilities. The statute also requires CON approval for the acquisition or control of major medical equipment and for the change of ownership of defined health care facilities unless the facilities meet specific requirements.

This *Plan* provides the service-specific CON criteria and standards developed and adopted by the MSDH for CON review of health-related activities requiring such review. The *Mississippi Certificate of Need Review Manual* provides additional general CON criteria by which the Department reviews all applications.

General Certificate of Need Policies

Mississippi's health planning and health regulatory activities have the following purposes:

- To prevent unnecessary duplication of health resources
- To provide cost containment
- To improve the health of Mississippi residents
- To increase the accessibility, acceptability, continuity, and quality of health services.

While all of the stated purposes of health planning and health regulatory activities are important, cost containment and the prevention of unnecessary duplication of health resources are the primary purposes and shall be given primary emphasis in the Certificate of Need process.

The MSDH intends to approve an application for CON if it substantially complies with the projected need and with the applicable criteria and standards presented in this *Plan*, and to disapprove all CON applications which do not substantially comply with the projected need or with applicable criteria and standards presented in this *Plan*.

The MSDH intends to disapprove CON applications which fail to confirm that the applicant shall provide a reasonable amount of indigent care, or if the applicant's admission policies deny or discourage access to care by indigent patients. Furthermore, the MSDH intends to disapprove CON applications if such approval would have a significant adverse effect on the ability of an existing facility or service to provide indigent care. Finally, it is the intent of the Mississippi Department of Health to strictly adhere to the criteria set forth in the *State Health Plan* and to ensure that any provider desiring to offer healthcare services covered by the Certificate of Need statutes undergoes review and is issued a Certificate of Need prior to offering such services.

The State Health Officer shall determine whether the amount of indigent care provided or proposed to be offered is "reasonable." The Department considers a reasonable amount of indigent care as that which is comparable to the amount of such care offered by other providers of the requested service within the same, or proximate, geographic area.

The MSDH may use a variety of statistical methodologies including, but not limited to, market share analysis or patient origin data to determine substantial compliance with projected need and with applicable criteria and standards in this *Plan*.

Population for Planning

Population projections used in this *Plan* were calculated by the Center for Policy Research and Planning, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, as published in *MISSISSIPPI, Population*

Projections for 2005, 2010, and 2015, March 2002. Map I-1 depicts the state's 2005 estimated population by county.

Outline of the State Health Plan

Section A of the *State Health Plan* outlines Mississippi's demographic characteristics, presents some of the state's health status indicators based on vital statistics, summarizes the major health care resources, identifies the priority health needs of the state, and establishes policies and strategies to help meet the identified needs. The *Plan* also examines the shortage of health care professionals in the state.

Section B describes existing services, evaluates the need for additional services in various aspects of health care, and provides Certificate of Need criteria and standards for each service requiring CON review. These services include: long-term care, including care for the aged and the mentally retarded; mental health care, including psychiatric, chemical dependency, and long-term residential treatment facilities; perinatal care; acute care, including various types of diagnostic and therapeutic services; ambulatory care, including outpatient services and freestanding ambulatory surgical centers; comprehensive medical rehabilitation; home health services; and end stage renal disease facilities.

Section C contains a glossary of terms and phrases used in this *Plan*.

Section D presents Mississippi's State Tobacco Prevention and Control Plan, developed by the Mississippi State Board of Health Committee on Tobacco and the State Tobacco Control Advisory Board.

Map I-1
Population Projections
2005

